



A Test of Bravery



dryad

fantasy

wood

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Chapter 1 by Purple Bookworm

Long ago it was prophesised that a mystical being of fiery nature would be born. The creature would be known as Amphiro. This is her story.

"Amphiro!"

Her name rang out and echoed in the long, wooden corridors of the palace. She ran. She sat. She cried. Today was her Ravinae, the day on which she would be tested for bravery. All rulers of the nymph worlds first had to pass a test to see if they were brave enough to rule their kingdom. Today it was her turn. Memories flooded back into her mind.

"Save yourself my child!"

"Listen to your mother Amphiro, we will hold them back long enough."

Her mother and father had died in the Magic Wars, this very day eight years ago, when she was ten. Now she was old enough to rule the kingdom that reigned over White Falcon Woods.

"Amphiro?" The voice was closer and softer now. Amphiro recognised it as her maid. Alsira's.

voice. She looked up, green eyes glistening with tears.

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"Why did they leave me?" Amphiro asked, her voice filled with sadness.

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"They were protecting you. I wish they did not have to either," Alsira replied softly, flicking a piece of blonde hair off her face to reveal two sparkling blue eyes. She reached down and offered a hand to Amphi.

"Come, let's get you ready. That beautiful raven hair needs some tidying," she said smiling.

Chapter 2 by Julia



Amphiro sat at her vanity, aimlessly twisting the thin silver chain that hung around her neck. On it sat an emerald encrusted ring shaped like a bird, its wings spread in flight. It had been a gift from her mother only a few moons before she had left for the Magic Wars.

"This ring," she had said, looking solemnly down at Amphiro,"has been passed down mother to daughter since our people first step down from the stars onto this land. May it keep you safe, and remind you of who you are."

From the day Amphiro had heard of her parents' death, she kept it on her at all times, choosing to keep it near her heart. Though she missed her family terribly, the ring gave her courage. It helped remember that she was strong, and brave, and that, in time, she could come to be a fit ruler for the kingdom.

As Alsira added some finishing touches, pinning Amphiro's hair in place and placing a silver circlet around her head, a heavy knocking came at the door. Amphiro stood up, and squared her shoulders, and looked at herself in the mirror.

"I am prepared," she said, in a steely tone that matched the look in her eyes.

Chapter 3 by Annie Leigh (GONE...)



The door opened, and a young boy bowed. He was wearing the guard uniform, but she had never seen him before.

"And who might you be?" she asked. His bright blue eyes looked up.

"New recruit, your highness" Amphiro rolled her eyes; she hated being called that. "please, just call me Amphiro!"

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And so she walked confidently to the front of the class and said:

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They finally reached the large french doors separating them from the throne room.

Amphiro cleared her throat and the boy opened the doors for her.

Inside were five of the kingdom's druid elders, each holding a golden staff with different colored symbols.

As she entered, they bowed their heads, and the elder in the center spoke first "princess

Amphiro. It is time". As he said this, he pointed his staff towards the throne. Amphiro nodded, and seated herself. The five elders approached, each aiming their staff at her.

The first elder started speaking "*iskalena hobdum crutum fera*-" but was stopped as he was put in a choke hold, a sword aimed at his neck.

It was the boy.

"Don't even think about it" he said to the closest druid who was holding his staff out at the boy.

"What do you want!" Amphiro choked.

A disturbing smile drew itself across the boy's face, and he chuckled "I've come to kidnap you, *your highness*".

Chapter 4 by Phantim



Tightness crept into Amphiro's throat. Everything seemed to slow down except for her pulse which took off at a rapid speed, sending blood and adrenaline rushing for her. She tried to think about what to do or what could be going on. How had a young boy snuck past her guards and gotten a uniform? Could he really succeed in kidnapping her by himself? After a moment she figured it out. This was no coincidence that this was happening on the day of her Ravinae. /This must be my test,/ she thought. She knew she had to be brave. She straightened her shoulders and cleared her throat.

"You will do no such thing wicked boy. I will not give myself to you or let you to use me in anyway that could harm the kingdom. I would not be the first of my line to lay down their life in the defense of others," she said with a fierce confidence.

The young boy stood there with a surprised look on his face as if he really hadn't expected the 18 year old orphan to stand up to him. "Then I will just have to take you by force!"

"Try it foul knave!" She dared him. See more of Story Wars

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magic. Amphiro felt strange and then suddenly she wasn't in the throne room anymore. /I don't think that was a test/," she realized with a sudden horror.

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